

The Delray Democrat

Republicans – Do What Is Right for the Country in 2020¹

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Three years of President Trump has led to the worst division this country has ever seen. Some refer to it as a “cold civil war.” Trump continually seeks to divide the nation with vile rhetoric, overt racism, and daily dishonesty to the point he demonstrably lies far more than he tells the truth. He not only fails to condemn white supremacy; he thoroughly embraces it.

His personal conduct in office is entirely reprehensible. Those who believed he would adjust once in office were unfortunately wrong. Some Republican voters maintained the falsity that they can disapprove of Trump’s disgusting behavior but vote for him solely because of tax cuts or conservative judges. If that worked in 2016, such an argument in 2020 is completely fallacious.

After 3 years, Trump’s abhorrent conduct has degraded rather than improved and there is no indication he will change. He further divides the nation rather than do his duty to unite. In the face of tragedy, he sinks even lower. The country is at the breaking point. There is no longer any viable separation or distinction between Trump policy and Trump repugnant personal conduct.

In 2020, Republican voters face a very real challenge. They cannot vote for Trump based on policy alone without endorsing his detestable conduct. Trump’s rabidly loyal base, consisting of his fellow racists, white supremacists, nationalists, and xenophobes, will most certainly come out in droves to vote for their champion. However, there are good, decent traditional Republicans who need to do right for the country. They are long-time loyal Republicans who believe in a conservative agenda, not Trump’s white nationalism. Our future may depend on them doing what is necessary in this most unusual election. The country cannot afford and may truly not be able to survive the inevitable damage that would be done by a second Trump term.

Republicans, there is no neutrality this time. He will not change and not abandon his hallmark hate and division. There is no legitimate argument that voters can vote for Trump because of traditional Republican policy but reject his abhorrent rhetoric and behavior. Such would simply defy logic and reality at this point. There were not good people on both sides when decent people stood up to the hate and violence spewed by a white supremacist march and there can not be good people on both sides in 2020 when one side fights for our democracy and return to decency in the White House and the other aims to ratify and take even further Trump’s reprehensible conduct to the clear detriment of the nation. Any vote for Trump in 2020 is a clear statement in favor of his ongoing racism, white supremacy, hatred, and violence.

Republicans opposed to white supremacy and who care about the country cannot vote for Trump. They have the choice to stay home, vote for the Democratic nominee, or perhaps vote for a third-party candidate. Whatever they do, they cannot vote for Trump and then distance themselves

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, August 2019, p. 7.

from his white supremacy, etc. They cannot claim to be voting only for certain Republican policy priorities and not for the detestable person who leads their ticket. There is simply no such logical distinction. The 2020 stakes are way too high and the danger is way too great. Republican voters need to do what is right for the country.